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(72) Inventor: Mometti, Fabrizio  
31040 Trevignano (IT)

(74) Representative: Vannini, Torquato et al  
c/o JACOBACCI & PERANI S.p.A.  
Via Visconti di Modrone, 7  
20122 Milano (IT)

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(71) Applicant: Pida S.r.l.  
31025 Sarano di Santa Lucia di Piave (Treviso)  
(IT)

(54) Binding for a snowboard

(57) Fastener for a snow board, comprising

- a plate-shaped base (2) which is equipped on opposite sides with respective raised edges (5,6) which give it an essentially hull-like shape which is open towards the front (7) and rear (8) sides of the base (2);
- an essentially U-shaped heel element (3) with wings (12,13) extending towards said front side (7) of the base (2), said wings being pivoted, at an intermediate point about a common pivoting axis (11), on the opposite edges (5-5c,6-6c) of said base (2);
- semi-annular collar band (4) with its opposite ends (4a,4b) connected to the ends of respective flat levers (16,17) which are pivoted, with a common pivoting axis (18,19), on the opposite edges (5a,6a) of

said base (2) in a position on this at a distance from said pivoting axis (11) of the heel element (3), towards the front side (7) of the base (2);

- means (14;15,16;20,21) of angularly moving said heel element (3) and said flat levers (16,17) with the associated collar band (4) about the respective pivoting axes (11;18,19) with an essentially pincer-like mutual movement, from an open position, in which said heel element (3) and said collar band (4) are moved apart from each other to allow rear entry, to a closed position in which said heel element (3) and said collar band (4) are moved together again;
- means (25,26,27) also being provided for anchoring at least one of said heel element (3), said collar band (4) and said flat levers (16,17) to said base (2).

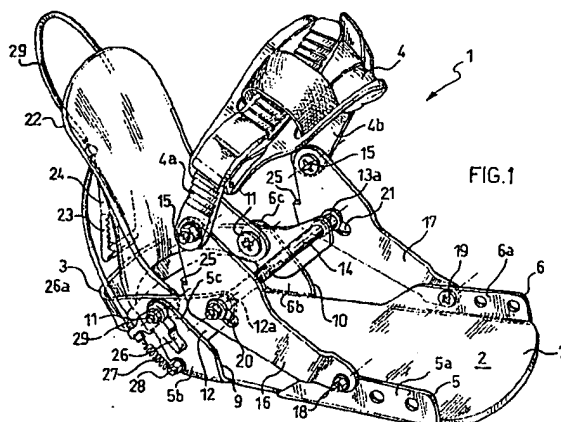


FIG. 1

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## D scription

The present invention relates to a fastener for a snow board.

It is known that, among the various generally acknowledged disadvantages of snow-board fasteners which are currently in use, the one which is the most important and as yet has not been overcome (notwithstanding the many attempts to this end) is essentially that all the operations associated with such a fastener (locking, unlocking, easing the locking tension, adjusting this tension etc.) still require manual intervention by the skier. The importance of this disadvantage, which is directly linked to the structural characteristics of snow-board fasteners of known type, is due to the fact that the abovementioned operations, which on the whole take place frequently during sporting activity are generally carried out in conditions which are difficult as a result of snow and ice on the fasteners, intense cold and fatigue.

Consequently, the main object of the present invention is to make available a fastener for a snow board which is capable of overcoming the abovementioned disadvantage of the prior art completely and advantageously, that is to say to make available a fastener which has structural and functional characteristics such that the operations associated with its functioning and proper use can be carried out without any manual intervention and without, as a result of this, neglecting those characteristics of safety, of reliability and of functional reliability which are normally required of similar devices.

This object as well as others which will emerge more clearly from the description which follows, are achieved by a fastener for a snow board according to the invention, which is characterized in that it comprises:

- a plate-shaped base which is equipped on opposite sides with respective raised edges which give it an essentially hull-like shape which is open towards the front and rear sides of the base;
- an essentially U-shaped heel element with wings extending towards said front side of the base, said wings being pivoted, at an intermediate point on themselves and with a common pivoting axis, on the opposite edges of said base;
- a semi-annular collar band with its opposite ends connected to the ends of respective flat levers which are pivoted, with a common pivoting axis, on the opposite edges of said base in a position on this at a distance from said pivoting axis of the heel element, towards the front side of the base;
- means of angularly moving said heel element and said flat levers with the associated collar band about the respective pivoting axes with an essentially pin-cer-like mutual movement, from an open position, in which said heel element and said collar band are moved apart from each other to allow rear entry, to a closed position in which said heel element and said collar band are moved together again;

- means also being provided for anchoring at least one of said heel element, said collar band and said flat levers to said base.

The characteristics and advantages of a fastener for a snow board according to the invention will become clearer from the description of an exemplary embodiment thereof which is given below with reference to the attached drawings which are given only by way of non-limiting indication and in which:

- Figure 1 represents diagrammatically in perspective a fastener for a snow board according to the invention;
- Figures 2 to 4 represent diagrammatically in a lateral view and on reduced scale the same fastener for a snow board as in Figure 1 in various operating states;
- Figure 5 is an enlarged view of a detail of Figure 2;
- Figure 6 represents, also on enlarged scale, the same detail of Figure 5 in a different operating state;
- Figure 7 represents in perspective in a rear view a detail of the fastener for a snow board in Figure 1.

With reference to the abovementioned figures, 1 indicates, as a whole, a fastener for a snow board according to the present invention. It comprises a plate-shaped base 2 which is preferably rectangular, a heel element 3 and a semi-annular collar band 4, which are mutually connected in the manner which is described below.

The plate-shaped base 2 is equipped, along its opposite longer sides, with identical raised edges 5, 6 which give it an essentially hull-like shape which is open on the shorter front 7 and rear 8 sides of said plate-shaped base.

In each of said edges 5, 6, a respective notch 9, 10 is formed, which is open on the upper side of the edges. Said notches 9, 10 subdivide the respective edges 5, 6 into two sections: front sections 5a, 6a and rear sections 5b, 6b. Said rear sections 5b, 6b are extended by respective end-pieces 5c, 6c which extend towards the rear of the plate-shaped base 2 and are inclined away from said base (Figure 1).

The heel element 3 is essentially U-shaped with flat wings 12, 13 which are attached from behind on to the plate-shaped base 2, inside and in substantial contact with the edges 5b, 6b thereof.

In particular, the opposite flat wings 12, 13 of said heel element 3 are pivoted, at an intermediate point on themselves, and with a common pivoting axis 11, on the free ends of the rear end-pieces 5c, 6c of said edges 5b, 6b; the heel element 3 is therefore angularly movable about said axis 11. The abovementioned flat wings 12, 13 extend beyond the axis 11 towards the front side 7 of the plate-shaped base 2 and have respective free ends 12a, 13a which are positioned in the region of the notches 9, 10 of the edges 5 and 6 of said plate-shaped base. The abovementioned free ends 12a, 13a of the

heel element 3 are mutually connected by a pin 14 which projects outside these. Two identical flat levers 16, 17 have a respective end fulcrumed, with a common fulcruming axis 18, 19, on the front sections 5a, 6a of the edges 5, 6 of the plate-shaped base 2.

Said flat levers 16, 17 are arranged outside and in substantial contact with the edges 5a, 6a and extend towards the rear side 8 of the plate-shaped base 2.

Pivoted on the other ends of said levers 16, 17, with a common pivoting axis 15, 15, are the opposite ends 4a, 4b of the collar band 4. Consequently, the collar band 4 is angularly movable in relation to the levers 16, 17 and is angularly movable with these about the fulcrum axis 18, 19.

Said flat levers 16, 17 are also equipped, at an intermediate point on themselves, with identical slot-shaped holes 20, 21, in which the opposite ends of the pin 14, which project from the flat wings 12, 13 of the heel element 3, are movably guided and engaged.

Positioned inside the heel element 3 and structurally independent thereof is a spoiler 22 which is pivoted on the opposite end-pieces 5c, 6c of the edges 5, 6 of the plate-shaped base 2.

A stop block 23 is mounted slidably in a guide 24 which is formed integrally at the rear in the spoiler 22 and is open on the lower contour of the spoiler. The stop block 23 is adjustably positionable in said guide 24 and removably fixable in the preselected position. Said stop block 23 is intended to interact with the heel element 3 (by resting on the upper edge thereof) in some operating stages of the fastener for a snow board according to this invention, as will emerge from the rest of the description.

Having described the structural characteristics of the fastener for a snow board according to the invention, its functioning will now be described.

In an initial state (Figure 2), the fastener 1 described above is in an open position, ready to receive, by rear entry, one foot of the skier, suitably protected by appropriate snatches footwear, for example a ski boot.

In this initial state, the heel element 3 and the flat levers 16, 17 (which bear the collar band 4) are in the position in which they are as far apart as allowed by the length and by the shape of the slot-shaped holes 20, 21 in the flat levers 16, 17, in which the pin 14 is engaged.

With the abovementioned rear entry, the foot of the skier encounters and then presses the pin 14 towards and against the base 2. The edges 5, 6 of the base 2 do not interfere with the movement of the pin 14, which is an angular movement in the clockwise direction (with reference to the figures) about the pin 11, 11, because of the opposite notches 9 and 10 formed in these edges.

With this movement, the pin 14 "draws along" with it on the one hand the heel element 3 with which it is integral and on the other hand and simultaneously the opposite flat levers 16, 17 with the associated collar band 4.

Consequently (Figures 3 and 4), the heel element 3 and the collar band 4 move closer together with an

essentially pincer-like movement and close over the booted foot of the skier.

At this point, subject to locking of the fastener for a snow board according to the present invention in the abovementioned closed position, the skier can begin any sporting activity which is desired.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of this invention, locking takes place automatically at the same time as the abovementioned pincer-like "closure" of the fastener is completed.

To this end (Figure 2), a tooth 25 is formed in the lower side of each flat lever 16, 17, said tooth interacting with a respective rod-shaped pawl 26 which is pivoted on the corresponding edge 5 of the base 2 and subject to the action of a spring 27.

In particular, and preferably, the rod-shaped pawl 26 juts out radially from a circular base 26a which is mounted rotatably on the same pin 11 (borne by the edge 5c of the base 2) as the heel element 3 and the spoiler 22 are pivoted.

Fixed tangentially to the circular base 26a of the rod-shaped pawl 26 is one end of the spring 27, the other end of which is fixed to a peg 28 of said edge 5c. Also fixed tangentially to the same circular base 26a is the end of a Bowden cable 29, by means of which it is possible to move the pawl 26 angularly about the pin 11 counter to the spring 27.

The length of the rod-shaped pawl 26 and the position of the tooth 25 are selected in such a manner that, on the point of the abovementioned "closed" position being reached, the back 25a of said tooth 25 presses on the end of the rod-shaped pawl 26, moving it angularly counter to the spring 27.

Then, when the "closed" position is reached, the back 25a presses beyond the rod-shaped pawl 26 so that the latter, returned by the spring 27, snaps into engagement with the tooth 25.

The levers 16, 17 are thus firmly anchored on the base 2 and are therefore positively locked in the closed position; the heel element 3 is also positively locked with these.

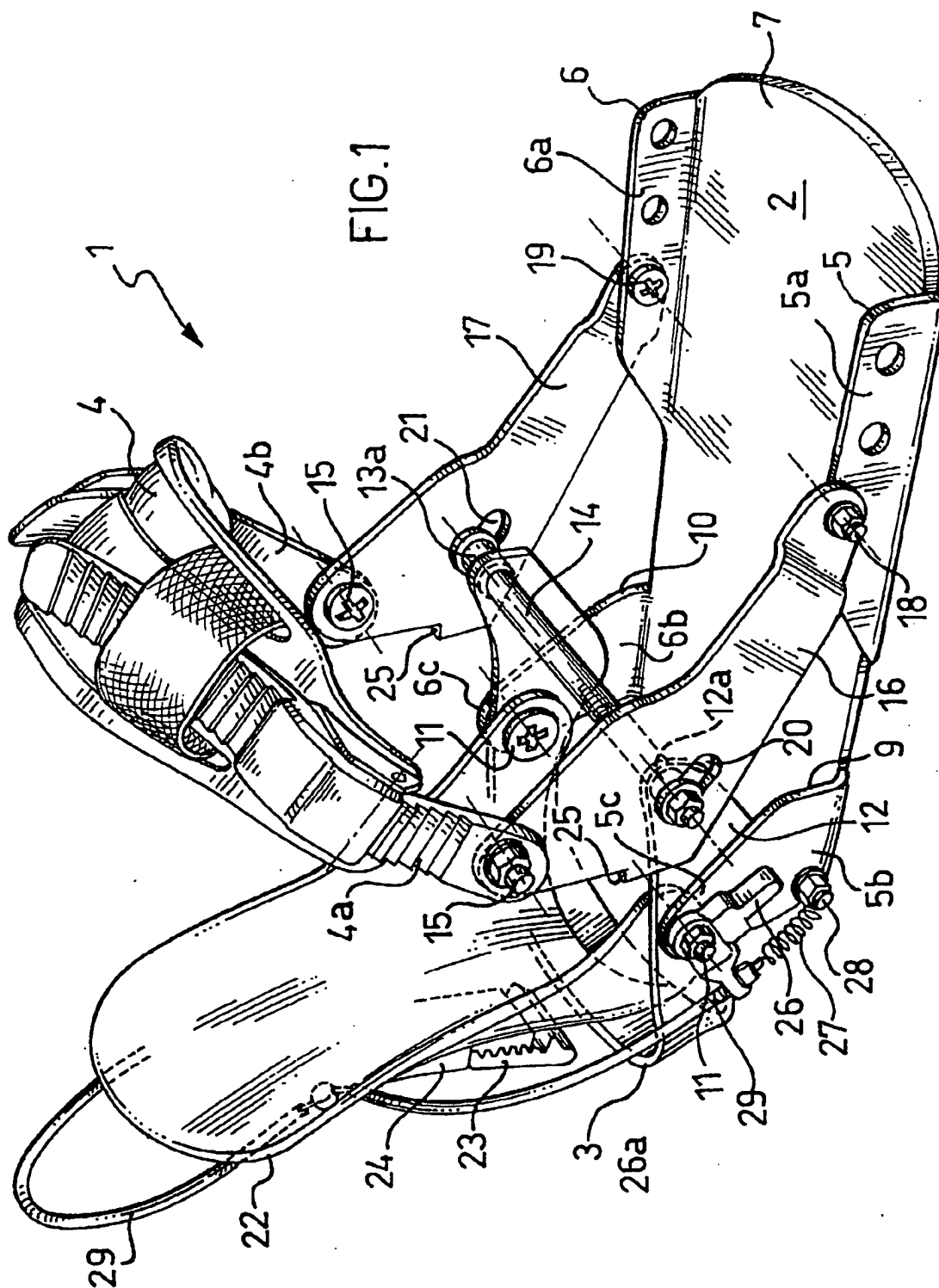
The operation of locking the sports footwear on a snow board is therefore achieved with great ease, automatically and without any manual intervention on the part of the skier. This locking is moreover particularly safe and reliable.

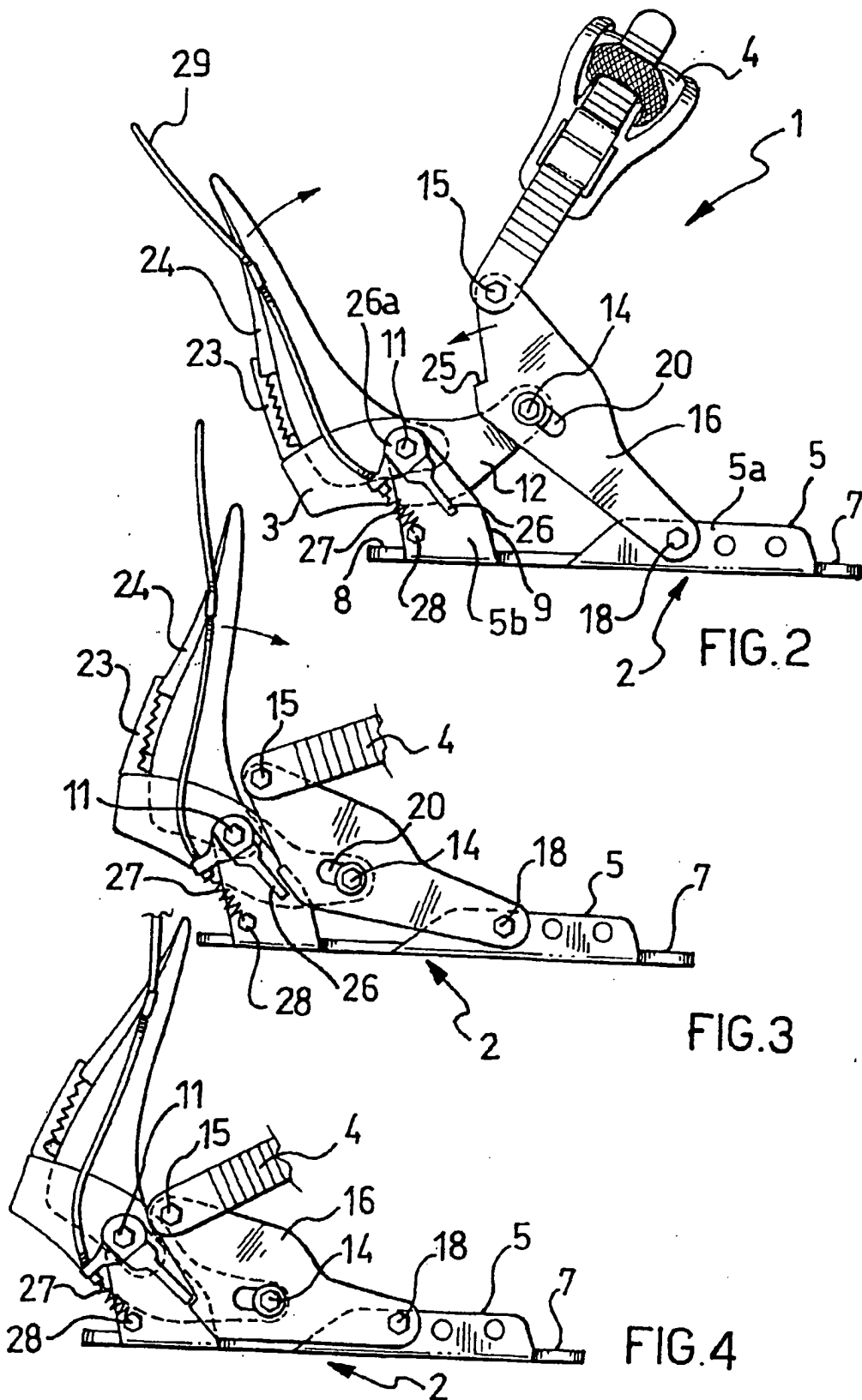
To open the fastener of this invention, it is sufficient to operate the Bowden cable, pulling it so as to disengage, counter to the springs 27, the rod-shaped pawls 26 from the respective teeth 25. Once this disengagement has been effected, the skier simply has to "press" on the heel element 3 in order to bring about the angular movement of this element about the axis pin 11 and simultaneously the angular movement in the opposite direction of the flat levers 16, 17 (with the associated collar band 4) about the axis pin 18, 19.

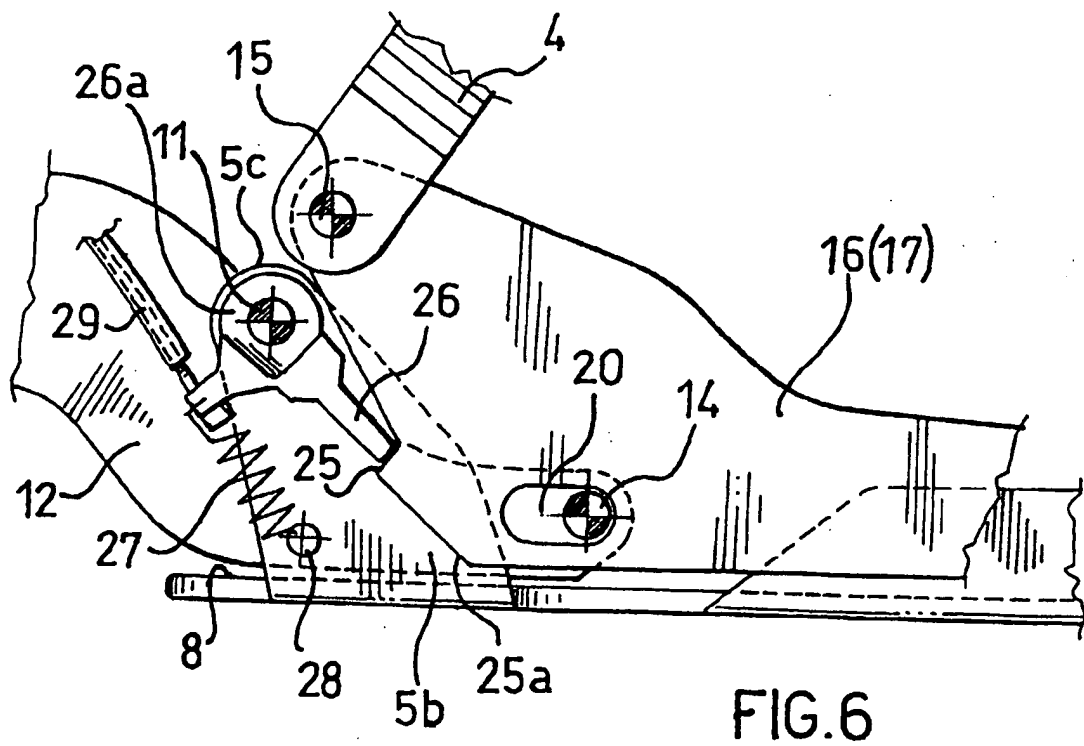
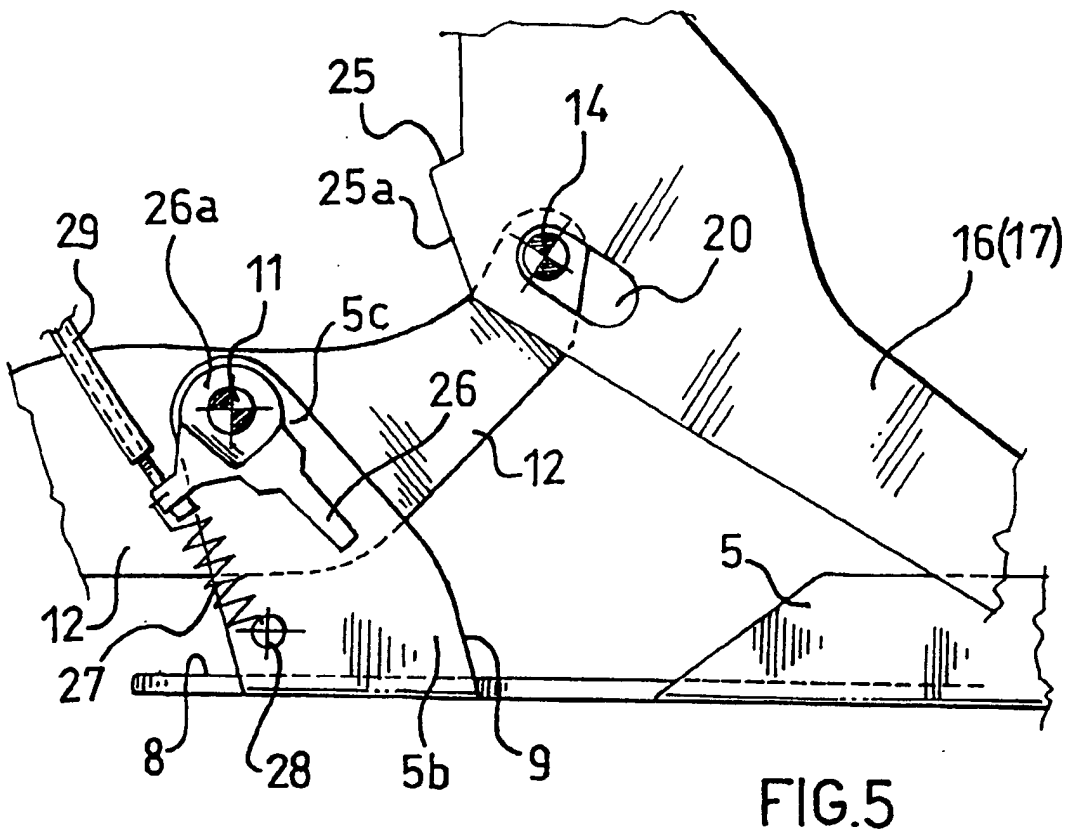
Pressing on the heel element 3 is effected by means of the spoiler 22 and the associated stop block 23.

**Claims**

1. Fastener for a snow board, characterized in that it comprises:
  - a plate-shaped base (2) which is equipped on opposite sides with respective raised edges (5, 6) which give it an essentially hull-like shape which is open towards the front (7) and rear (8) sides of the base (2);
  - an essentially U-shaped heel element (3) with wings (12, 13) extending towards said front side (7) of the base (2), said wings being pivoted, at an intermediate point on themselves and with a common pivoting axis (11), on the opposite edges (5-5c, 6-6c) of said base (2);
  - semi-annular collar band (4) with its opposite ends (4a, 4b) connected to the ends of respective flat levers (16, 17) which are pivoted, with a common pivoting axis (18, 19), on the opposite edges (5a, 6a) of said base (2) in a position on this at a distance from said pivoting axis (11) of the heel element (3), towards the front side (7) of the base (2);
  - means (14; 15, 16; 20, 21) of angularly moving said heel element (3) and said flat levers (16, 17) with the associated collar band (4) about the respective pivoting axes (11; 18, 19) with an essentially pincer-like mutual movement, from an open position, in which said heel element (3) and said collar band (4) are moved apart from each other to allow rear entry, to a closed position in which said heel element (3) and said collar band (4) are moved together again;
  - means (25, 26, 27) also being provided for anchoring at least one of said heel element (3), said collar band (4) and said flat levers (16, 17) to said base (2).
2. Fastener for a snow board according to Claim 1, characterized in that said means of angularly moving the heel element (3) and the flat levers (16, 17) with an essentially pincer-like movement comprise a pin (14) which is supported by the opposite free ends (12a, 13a) of the wings (12, 13) of said heel element and is movably engaged through slot-shaped holes (20, 21) provided in said flat levers (16, 17) respectively, said pin (14) being angularly movable about said pivoting axis (11, 11) of the opposite wings (12, 13) of the heel element (3) together with these.
3. Fastener for a snow board according to Claim 2, characterized in that the opposite edges (5, 6) of said plate-shaped base (2) are equipped with respective notches (9, 10) which are open on the upper side of said edges, in a position on the latter which cannot hinder the angular movements of said pin (14) towards and away from said base (2).
4. Fastener for a snow board according to Claim 1, characterized in that said anchoring means comprise:
  - at least one rod-shaped pawl (26) which has one end (26a) rotatably mounted on a pin (11) borne by one of said edges (5, 6) of the base (2) and is angularly movable about said pin (11) counter to sprung means (27);
  - a tooth (25) formed in at least one of said flat levers (16, 17) and intended to be removably snap-engaged by said rod-shaped pawl (26).
5. Fastener for a snow board according to Claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises a rear spoiler (22) which is positioned inside said heel element (3), is structurally independent of the latter and is pivoted on the same pivoting axis (11), said spoiler (22) being equipped at the rear with a stop block (23) intended to engage the upper edge of said heel element (3).







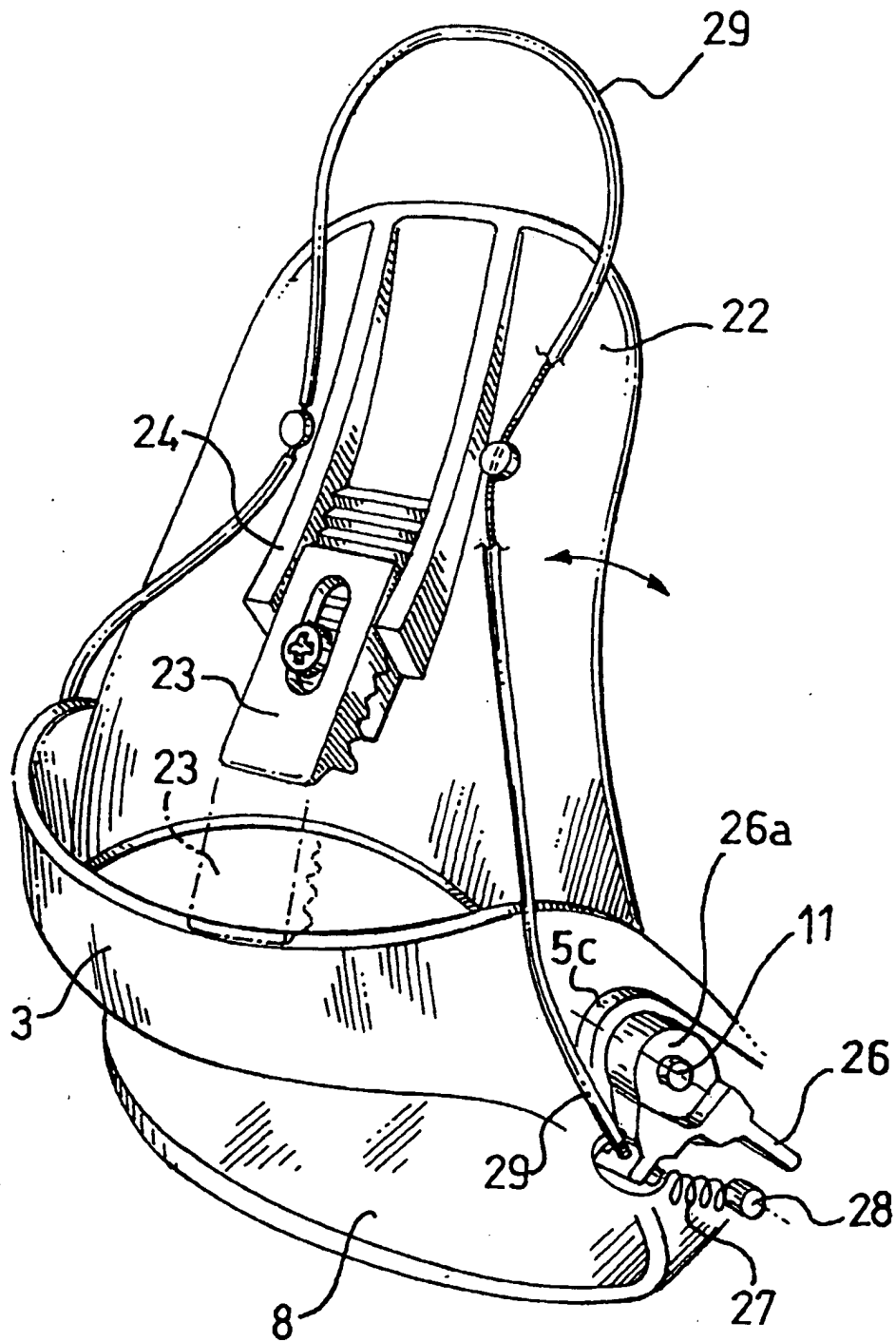


FIG.7





European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 20 1113

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	WO 95 33534 A (FINIEL) * page 14, line 1 - page 18, line 8; figures 6-13 * & FR 2 720 655 A (FINIEL) ---	1-5	A63C9/08
Y	DE 44 16 023 C (BREUER) * column 5, line 47 - column 8, line 52; figures 1-4 * ---	1-5	
A	FR 2 631 843 A (BATAILLE INDUSTRIES) * the whole document * ---	1	
A,P	US 5 556 123 A (FOURNIER) * column 3, line 1 - column 4, line 39; figures 4A,4B,4C * ---	1	
A,P	WO 96 40390 A (THE BURTON CORPORATION) * page 3, line 13 - page 5, line 25; figures 1-5 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A63C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 August 1997	Examiner Giesen, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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